# AFF CARDS

### Blacks want gun control

#### Stats flow affirmative- most black people want tighter gun control.

Ehab **Zahriyeh** *Some African-American say tighter restrictions on guns rob them of their civil rights* Ehab Zahriyeh is a Digital News Producer for Aljazeera America September 1st, 20**13**

**However, most African Americans favor limits on guns. Fifty-three percent of blacks say that gun ownership makes people less safe, compared with 33 percent of whites, according to a December poll by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press.**

### Gun Control Reduced Violence

#### Stats show- more gun control policies reduce the amount of gun related deaths.

Yamiche **Alcindor, USA TODAY** *12:11 p.m. EST* Study: States with more gun laws have less gun violence *March 7, 20***13**

**States with more gun laws have fewer gun-related deaths**, according to a new study released Wednesday by Boston Children's Hospital. The leader investigator behind the research hopes the findings will drive legislators to pass gun reform across the country and increase federal funding to research on gun laws and violence. However, at least one critic argues that the study fails to take into account several important factors such as the types of laws, enforcement of laws, and gun ownership rates in states." Our research gives clear evidence that laws have a role in preventing firearms deaths," said Eric Fleegler, the study's lead investigator and a pediatric emergency doctor at Boston Children's Hospital. "Legislators should take that into consideration." Fleegler and researchers from Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health studied information from **all 50 states between 2007 to 2010, analyzing all firearm-related deaths reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**and data on firearm laws compiled by the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence. **States with the most laws had a mortality rate 42% lower than those states with the fewest laws, they found. The strong law states' firearm-related homicide rate was also 40% lower and their firearm-related suicide rate was 37% lower.** Specifically, Fleeger pointed to states with many gun laws like **Massachusetts, which had 3.4 gun-related deaths per 100,000 people, and New Jersey, which had 4.9 gun-deaths per 100,000 people. Conversely, he focused on states with less laws like Louisiana, which had 18 deaths per 100,000** individuals **and Alaska, which had 17.5 deaths per 100,000** individuals.

### It’s mainly white people fucking it all up (killing blacks)/ Uniqueness

#### Too much violence has already occurred in the context of gun violence- we need to act now!

Gary **Younge** *Without gun control, racism will keep killing black people* Gary Younge is a feature writer and columnist for the Guardian based in the US June 18th, 20**15**

But **the**[**shooting of nine black church-goers in Charleston**](http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jun/18/charleston-church-shooting-nine-dead-after-hate-attack) (not far from where Scott was killed) **by a white gunman in what police are treating as a “hate crime” marks a doubling down on the nation’s**[**twin pathologies**](http://www.thenation.com/article/179968/truth-about-race-america-its-getting-worse-not-better)**of**[**racism and guns**](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/apr/16/americas-deadly-devotion-guns)**.** Both are deeply rooted in the nation’s history since its founding: neither are going anywhere soon. America does not have a monopoly on racism. But **what makes its racism so lethal is the ease with which people can acquire guns.** While the new conversation around race will mean the political response to the fact of this attack will be different, **the**[**stale conversation around gun control**](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/jul/20/america-needs-talk-gun-control-wake-colorado)**means the legislative response to the nature of this attack will remain the same. Nothing will happen. After Adam Lanza**[**shot 20 primary school children and six adults in Sandy Hook**](http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/mar/06/no-appetite-for-more-gun-control-in-connecticut-after-sandy-hook-shooting)**, Connecticut, in 2012 before turning his gun on himself, nothing happened.** [Seven children and teens are shot dead every day](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2007/jun/09/usa.usgunviolence) in America and nothing happens. **So these nine victims will join those who perished before them – a sacrifice to the blood-soaked pedestal erected around the constitution’s second amendment that gun lobbyists say guarantees the right of individuals to bear arms.** Where guns are concerned this is what passes for [American exceptionalism](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/feb/18/american-exceptionalism-north-korea-nukes) – an 18th century compromise with fatal 21st century ramifications.

#### Only white men take advantage of gun rights, which only lead to racist murders.

[Josiah M. **Hesse**](http://www.vice.com/author/josiah-m-hesse) Josiah M. Hesse is a Denver-based journalist covering politics, crime, marijuana, comedy, music, economics and pop culture. His work has appeared in VICE, Noisey, The Cannabist, Splitsider, LaughSpin, and Westword.June 23rd, 20**15**

As Mother Jones[reported](http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2012/07/mass-shootings-map), "**Since 1982, there have been at least 70 mass shootings across the country... Forty four of the killers were white males. Only one of them was a woman."** So **white men have been responsible for about 63 percent of mass shootings** in that span, despite comprising a far smaller portion of the total population. And **while the motives for mass murder vary from perpetrator to perpetrator, since the Columbine school shooting in 1999, there has been a remarkable consistency—if not uniformity—in the age, gender, and race of the people who carry out these egregious crimes.**

### More gun ownership won’t help or change anything

#### More guns in circulation with inner cities will eventually lead to more death.

##### Will **Bunch** *Should more black people carry guns?* Senior writer at Philadelphia Daily News Thursday, April 2, 20**15**

**Except that putting more guns into circulation -- not just in the inner-city but anywhere in this ammo-crazed nation of ours -- is a truly terrible idea. Quite simply, the more firepower that's out there, the more people who will die needless deaths that will further destroy families and entire communities,** where in places where more destruction is the last thing people need. For every decent shop owner who turns away some punk robber with the business end of a .38, how many more cases will we see of [toddlers](http://myfox8.com/2014/04/07/toddler-accidentally-shoots-kills-11-year-old-sister/) getting their hands on licensed handguns and causing lethal mayhem? **The truth is that no matter how many law-abiding people obtain permitted weapons, these guns will be used in ways that were never intended or imagined -- to settle a beef, or, as is far too often the case, a lover's quarrel.** The NPR story offered a classic example of how guns can go bad -- not just in the African-American community, but any community.

### NRA EVIL

#### The NRA is psychopathic.

##### Will **Bunch** *Should more black people carry guns?* Senior writer at Philadelphia Daily News Thursday, April 2, 20**15**

That's exactly right. **This new trend is a sad commentary on the current state of the violence debate in America -- and it's also infuriating. Make no mistake,**[**a dangerous extremiist group called the NRA**](http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/attytood/The-NRA-None-dare-call-it-a-hate-group.html)**-- and the politicians who beg for its offerings on bended knee -- bears a disproportionate share of the blame. The gun lobby's growing success in killing even the mildest moves towards gun sanity in America, even after the senseless slaughter of babies in Newtown in 2012, has finally convinced rational people that we can never reduce the firepower on our streets --**[**that if you can't beat 'em, join 'em**](http://www.economist.com/news/united-states/21647627-prevent-gun-deaths-politicians-offermore-guns-why-gun-lobby-winning)**.**

### Extra Cards

##### Will **Bunch** *Should more black people carry guns?* Senior writer at Philadelphia Daily News Thursday, April 2, 20**15**

The circle on this is beyond ironic. **History buffs remember that blacks arming themselves -- citing police brutality -- was a key tenet of**[**the rise of the Black Panther Party in the 1960s**](http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/09/the-secret-history-of-guns/308608/)**. A black open-carry event at the California State Capitol led the NRA and the state's then-new governor -- Ronald Reagan, perhaps you've heard of him? -- to**[**endorse gun control measures aimed at the black power movement**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mulford_Act)**. Today's new developments may test how much has really changed in American society since 1967.**

##### Will **Bunch** *Should more black people carry guns?* Senior writer at Philadelphia Daily News Thursday, April 2, 20**15**

But in the meantime, what a blow to the memory of a man of peace like Martin Luther King as we recall this weekend what he fought for -- and how his efforts were cut short by a man with a  high-powered rifle. **The 2nd Amendment is a fact of life in America, and gun ownership should be legal...and safe, and also rare, and properly regulated. Giving up and giving in to the gun culture is never the answer -- in any neighborhood**.

John **Kelly** *Why British Police don’t have guns* BBC News Magazine September 19th, 20**12**

**A 2006 survey of 47,328 Police Federation members found 82% did not want officers to be routinely armed on duty, despite almost half saying their lives had been "in serious jeopardy"** during the previous three years. It is a position shared by the Police Superintendents' Association and the Association of Chief Police Officers. The British public are not nearly so unanimous. An ICM poll in April 2004 found 47% supported arming all police, compared with 48% against. Additionally, officers, chief constables and politicians alike are wary of upsetting an equilibrium that has been maintained throughout Britain's 183-year policing history. "**There's a general recognition that if the police are walking around with guns it changes things,"** says Richard Garside, director of the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies Arming **the force would**, say opponents, **undermine the principle of policing by consent - the notion that the force owes its primary duty to the public, rather than to the state, as in other countries.** This owes much to the historical foundations of British criminal justice, says Peter Waddington, professor of social policy at the University of Wolverhampton. "A great deal of what we take as normal about policing was set out in the early 19th Century," he says. "When Robert Peel formed the Metropolitan Police there was a very strong fear of the military - the masses feared the new force would be oppressive." A force that did not routinely carry firearms - and wore blue rather than red, which was associated with the infantry - was part of this effort to distinguish the early "Peelers" from the Army, Waddington says. **Over time, this notion of guns being inimical to community policing** - and, indeed, to the popular conception of the Dixon of Dock Green-style bobby - was reinforced. While some in London were issued with revolvers prior to 1936, from that date only trained officers at the rank of sergeant or above were issued with guns, and even then only if they could demonstrate a good reason for requiring one. **Today only a small proportion of officers are authorised to use firearms.** Latest Home Office figures show there were just 6,653 officers authorised to use firearms in England and Wales - **about 5%** of the total number.

# NEG CARDS

### Police Brutality means protection is needed

#### Uniqueness flows negative. Will Bunch *Should more black people carry guns?* Senior writer at Philadelphia Daily News Thursday, April 2, 2015 (internal link to police brutality disad)

It would be an understatement to say that police shootings of African-American suspects have been in the news, especially since the Mike Brown killing and subsequent unrest in Ferguson. This week, I saw a shocking statistic -- that [**the more than 100 Americans killed by police during March**](http://thinkprogress.org/justice/2015/04/01/3641143/use-of-force-incidents-march/) **was more than the number of people killed by police in the United Kingdom since 1900.** But **that's** also **just one aspect of the dangers of living in arguably the most violent developed nations in the world -- especially for those who live in poverty-stricken inner-city neighborhoods, where many blacks and other minorities are concentrated.**

### Black people in favor of more guns to help themselves

#### Crime is soaring, statistics show more black people want protection.

##### Will **Bunch** *Should more black people carry guns?* Senior writer at Philadelphia Daily News Thursday, April 2, 20**15**

**After crime soared** in the 1970s, '80s and '90s, **many leaders in the black community shared a common political goal -- getting guns off the street.** Philadelphia's current [Mayor Nutter could be a poster child for that movement](http://www.phillymag.com/news/2014/04/17/mayor-nutter-joins-anti-gun-coalition/) -- throughout his two terms, Nutter has traded barbs with the NRA, called for a renewed ban on assault rifles, and led anti-gun coalitions. His views were shared by rank-and-file city voters.But **after decades of failed efforts to enact saner gun laws, the mood is changing**. There's mounting evidence that African-Americans are embracing gun ownership. [**A national poll** published in December by the Pew Research Center](http://www.people-press.org/2014/12/10/growing-public-support-for-gun-rights/)**chronicled** this stunning change in attitudes. It reported: "Currently, **54% of blacks say gun ownership does more to protect people than endanger personal safety,** nearly double the percentage saying this in December 2012 (29%)." Indeed, the massive and swift flip in black opinion was a key reason why for the first time over Americans overall support gun rights over so-called gun control. I first heard of the Pew findings today in [a broader NPR story about black gun ownership](http://www.npr.org/2015/04/02/396869889/more-african-americans-support-carrying-legal-guns-for-self-defense). Their piece quoted Detroit's African-American police chief, James Craig, as an example of changing opinions; he said **gun ownership by law-abiding black citizens could be a strategy for dealing with slow police response times in poorly served, high-crime neighborhoods.** It's the argument, basically, that the NRA has been putting out there for years -- just now reaching a new populations.

#### Gun control regulations only stop protection for those who need it.

Ehab **Zahriyeh** *Some African-American say tighter restrictions on guns rob them of their civil rights* Ehab Zahriyeh is a Digital News Producer for Aljazeera America September 1st, 20**13**

Unlike most members of the National Rifle Association, Ector is black. **Since guns are the leading cause of death among African Americans age 14 to 18, black people tend to favor gun control.** But Ector and other **African-Americans** who share his views on firearms **see gun rights as a civil rights issue and tighter regulations as a way to keep power out of the hands of minorities. "Gun control has racist roots and when you deny people the opportunity to own a gun and to protect themselves, that is the epitome of racism,"** he told Al Jazeera.His thinking, he says, is shaped by America’s segregated past. As far back as the 1860s, **gun control has been used to keep arms out of the hands of black people. After the Civil War, a group of discriminatory laws known as the Black Codes limited the civil liberties—like the right to bear arms—of newly freed slaves.**

### Gun Control increases-murder rates increase

#### Gun restrictions only further murder rates.

John **Blake** *Does race shape Americans’ passion for guns?* John Blake is a native of Baltimore, Maryland. He writes about race, religion, politics, and other assorted topics. CNN Enterprise writer/producer October 12, 20**14**

And **gun restrictions don't help black people living in violent neighborhoods,** he says. **Every time guns have been banned,** Lott says, **murder rates have increased. When the state of Massachusetts increased the costs of gun ownership, the number of registered gun owners in the state plummeted -**[**- and the state's murder rate rose**](http://johnrlott.blogspot.com/2013/02/massachusetts-murder-rate-has-risen.html)**.** [Other academics say Lott's research is faulty.](http://mediamatters.org/research/2012/12/17/who-is-gun-advocate-john-lott/191885) "

### Uniqueness

#### Black political leaders are calling for the second amendment to be put to use in the context of black life being threatened by police brutality.

Taylor **Gordon***Black Leaders in Arkansas Urge Black People to Arm Themselves With Guns and Cameras* Taylor Gordon is a writer for Atlanta Black Star. April 16th,20**15**

**In the midst of what seems to be a never-ending wave of unarmed Black citizens being killed by police, Black leaders are now pushing for the community to take action by arming themselves with guns** and video cameras. **The**[**Black community’s attitude towards gun control**](http://atlantablackstar.com/2015/04/04/black-citizens-lose-faith-law-enforcement-major-shift-happens-support-carrying-concealed-weapons/)**has seen a major shift in recent years as the cruelty of police brutality has garnered national attention.** While many still remain unsure about whether or not it is best to bring more guns into their communities, **local leaders in Arkansas are very clear about their stance on the matter. “We’re asking that Black people around the country arm themselves and join in established gun clubs,”** Hubert Bass, CEO of the Crittenden County Justice Commission, told Memphis station WREG. Shabaka Afrika, the president of the Crittenden County NAACP, mirrored those sentiments. **Both of these local leaders insisted it isn’t a call for more violence but rather a precautionary action to make sure the Black community has its own line of defense when the police fail to serve and protect them.** These two certainly aren’t the first to make this push in the very community that once strongly advocated for more gun control. Just a few weeks ago, Samuel Mosteller, longtime president of the Georgia chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, also urged the Black community to “exercise their Second Amendment rights.” Mosteller expressed a clear frustration with the fact that so many Black citizens were being fatally attacked by police regardless of their actions leading up to the tragic encounter. **“You stand there, [police] shoot,”** Mosteller told reporters back in March. **“You run, they shoot. We’re going to have to take a different track.”** Data released by the Pew Research Center found that many members of the Black community are also having a change of heart about concealed carry laws. **Researchers found that more than 50 percent of Black people were now in favor of using firearms to “protect people from being victims of crimes.”**

### Gun Control Laws Racist

#### The KKK advocated gun control because they were afraid of blacks having guns.

John **Blake** *Does race shape Americans’ passion for guns?* John Blake is a native of Baltimore, Maryland. He writes about race, religion, politics, and other assorted topics. CNN Enterprise writer/producer October 12, 20**14**

**The KKK took so easily to gun control because the nation's first gun control laws in the 19th century were rooted in racism,** historians say. **Before the Civil War, Southerners passed laws to keep guns away from slaves and free blacks because they feared slave revolts. After the war ended, Southern states passed laws that made it illegal for blacks to possess guns or ammunition. The Klan's rise was driven by the fear of blacks with guns,** Kopel says. He quotes one 19th century lawyer who said that when the Klan took control of an area, "The first thing done was to disarm the Negros and leave them defenseless

#### After blacks began to get political power, whites gunned up- there is a pathology of blackness in amalgamation with guns.

John **Blake** *Does race shape Americans’ passion for guns?* John Blake is a native of Baltimore, Maryland. He writes about race, religion, politics, and other assorted topics. CNN Enterprise writer/producer October 12, 20**14**

**When emancipated blacks starting winning political offices right after the Civil War, Southern whites went on gun-buying sprees,** says Dylan Rodriguez, an ethnic studies professor at the University of California Riverside. **"You had an absolute rush on guns by ordinary white citizens to arm themselves to the teeth because black people were being put in positions of white power,**" says Rodriguez, author of "Suspended Apocalypse: White Supremacy, Genocide and the Filipino Condition." Race and ethnicity continued to be the "unspoken motive" in gun control efforts well into the 20th century, says Kopel, author of "The Truth About Gun Control." **The state of New York passed the 1911 Sullivan Act, which made owning a handgun more difficult, after large numbers of Italian and Jewish immigrants pouring into America were blamed for urban crime. The fears of black people with guns resurfaced during the 1960s.**

#### Whites are scared. Pathology of blackness and guns.

John **Blake** *Does race shape Americans’ passion for guns?* John Blake is a native of Baltimore, Maryland. He writes about race, religion, politics, and other assorted topics. CNN Enterprise writer/producer October 12, 20**14**

These **old racial fears don't just lead to shootings; they lead to racist public policy**, says Lisa Corrigan, professor at the University of Arkansas who has studied the black power movement. **She says the passage of "stand your ground" laws, especially in the South, are "absolutely" fueled by white legislators who conjure the specter of a "non-white bogeyman to justify legislation that allows them to intimidate and kill" without repercussions**. The nation's first bogeyman of color was the Native-American, she says. **"White people have been motivated by fear of the 'brown other' since the nation was founded,"** she says. "**When they get afraid that brown people are going to take their stuff, they gun up."** The racial paranoia over the "brown other" isn't confined to America's past, Corrigan and others says. They point to recent headlines.

#### Historically, gun control laws were created with racist intentions.

Clayton E. **Cramer** *The Racist Roots of Gun Control* Clayton E. Cramer is an American historian, author, and software engineer. Copyright 19**93**

The historical record provides compelling evidence that racism underlies gun control laws -- and not in any subtle way. **Throughout much of American history, gun control was openly stated as a method for keeping blacks and Hispanics "in their place," and to quiet the racial fears of whites**. This paper is intended to provide a brief summary of this unholy alliance of gun control and racism, and to suggest that **gun control laws should be regarded as "suspect ideas,"** analogous to the "suspect classifications" theory of discrimination already part of the American legal system. **Racist arms laws predate the establishment of the United States. Starting in 1751, the French Black Code required Louisiana colonists to stop any blacks,** **and if necessary, beat "any black carrying any potential weapon, such as a cane."** If a black refused to stop on demand, and was on horseback, the colonist was authorized to "shoot to kill." [[1]](https://www.firearmsandliberty.com/cramer.racism.html" \l "1) **Slave possession of firearms was a necessity at times in a frontier society, yet laws continued to be passed in an attempt to prohibit slaves or free blacks from possessing firearms,** except under very restrictively controlled conditions. [[2]](https://www.firearmsandliberty.com/cramer.racism.html" \l "2) **Similarly, in the sixteenth century the colony of New Spain, terrified of black slave revolts, prohibited all blacks, free and slave, from carrying arms.** [[3]](https://www.firearmsandliberty.com/cramer.racism.html" \l "3)

### Gun violence affects blacks more (Stats)

#### Gun violence disproportionately affects blacks.

Igor **Volsky** *NRA To African Americans: You’ll Need Guns To Protect Yourselces From The Government* **Igor Volsky** is the Director of Video and Contributing Editor of ThinkProgress.org. Igor is co-author of [Howard Dean’s Prescription for Real Healthcare Reform](http://www.amazon.com/Howard-Dean%C2%92s-Prescription-Healthcare-Reform/dp/1603582282/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1248730880&sr=1-1) and has appeared on MSNBC, CNN, Fox Business, Fox News, and CNBC television, and has been a guest on many radio shows. In 2011, Forbes named Igor one of their top 30 under 30 in Law & Policy. Igor grew up in Russia, Israel and New Jersey and graduated from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York. He was previously the Health and LGBT editor at ThinkProgress. March 2 20**13**

**Gun violence** kills 30,000 Americans each year and [**disproportionately impacts**](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/race/news/2013/01/17/49885/top-10-reasons-why-communities-of-color-should-care-about-stricter-gun-violence-prevention-laws/)**communities of color**. For instance, **blacks “make up roughly 13 percent of the U.S. population, but in 2010**—the last year for which data is available—**they suffered 56 percent of all firearm homicides.”** **The gun-homicide “rate for black males is 2.4 times as high as that of Latino males, and it is 15.3 times as high as the rate for non-Hispanic white males.**” **In** 2008 and **2009 gun homicide was “the leading cause of death among black teens, and the rates of gun-related deaths are highest for black male teens.”**

#### Teens are incentivized to get guns for protection in inner city communities.

Igor **Volsky** ThinkProgress.org. Igor is co-author of [Howard Dean’s Prescription for Real Healthcare Reform](http://www.amazon.com/Howard-Dean%C2%92s-Prescription-Healthcare-Reform/dp/1603582282/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1248730880&sr=1-1) and has appeared on MSNBC, CNN, Fox Business, Fox News, and CNBC television, and has been a guest on many radio shows. In 2011, Forbes named Igor one of their top 30 under 30 in Law & Policy. Igor grew up in Russia, Israel and New Jersey and graduated from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York. He was previously the Health and LGBT editor at ThinkProgress. March 2 20**13**

**Teens living in dangerous communities, where guns are often easily accessible, are stuck in a cycle of violence: those who are exposed to firearms report “committing more serious acts of violence than teens who had not been exposed” and are “more likely to carry concealed firearms” themselves, perpetuating the cycle.** Some cities — like Minneapolis, Minnesota — have broken the cycle by treating violence as a[public health problem](http://thinkprogress.org/justice/2013/02/04/1536671/what-we-can-learn-from-minneapolis-progressive-approach-to-reducing-gun-violence/). Just as Noir concluded, the public health approach suggests that **youth violence is caused principally by a surrounding environment — lack of adult support, economic incentives to join gangs.** But **instead of encouraging residents to buy more guns, the city tightened its gun regulations, ensured youth had access to trusted adults, formed city job programs, and helped reorient kids who’ve already committed violence by reintegrating youth into the community.** As a result, **“juvenile-related violent crime citywide**[**declined 29 percent from 2007 to 2008**](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/Publications/e011027253-Minneapolis.pdf)**, and 37 percent from 2006 to 2008.”** Unfortunately, this isn’t the first time gun advocates have sought to make inroads in African American communities. Conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh [equated](http://thinkprogress.org/politics/2013/01/19/1473651/limbaugh-tarnishes-civil-rights-movement-to-advance-pro-gun-agenda/) the fight for African American civil rights with opposition to gun safety and suggested that the movement could have better protected itself from segregationists had it been armed.

### Protection Needed- History Shows

#### Civil rights progression for blacks happened since black people were armed- gun control denies protection and a level of intimidation black people need to not be taken advantage of by whites.

John **Blake** *Does race shape Americans’ passion for guns?* John Blake is a native of Baltimore, Maryland. He writes about race, religion, politics, and other assorted topics. CNN Enterprise writer/producer October 12, 20**14**

It's a mistake to think that our gun culture is lily-white, historians say. **Contemporary blacks may be some of the strongest supporters of gun control, but the black community has a strong gun rights tradition, particularly in the South. Guns helped spawn the civil rights movement,** says Cottrol, the history professor at George Washington University. **White vigilantes who tried to attack black communities were met at times by gunfire.** The Deacons for Self-Defense, an armed black group, protected civil rights activists, says Cottrol, author of "The Long, Lingering Shadow: Slavery, Race and Law in the American Hemisphere." **Southern blacks in particular recognized the value of owning guns because they couldn't depend on anyone else to protect them during a time when the sheriff could be a member of the Klan,** historians say. **"The civil rights movement was made possible because the Klan knew that black communities were armed,"** Cottrol says.

#### Gun control logically makes no sense for the people who are systematically oppressed that actually need guns- policies restricting guns only add to the victimization of black folk.

Leo **Hohmann** *MORE BLACKS SEE GUNS AS LIFESAVER* Leo Hohmann is a news editor for WND. He has been a reporter and editor at several suburban newspapers in the Atlanta and Charlotte, North Carolina, areas and also served as managing editor of Triangle Business Journal in Raleigh, North Carolina.  
April 20th, 20**15**

One of the more striking aspects of the Pew poll was the change in thinking among black Americans. As recently as 2012, 53 percent of blacks surveyed said guns put people’s safety at risk, whereas just 29 percent said guns protect people from becoming victims of crime. By December 2014, those ratios had flipped, with 41 percent saying guns are a safety hazard and 54 percent saying guns protect people from crime. Rev. Jesse Lee Peterson, a pastor and founder of the BOND network, a group that mentors young black males in the Los Angeles area, said **gun control makes about as much sense for black families living in inner-city ghettos as it did for Jews living in Nazi ghettos during World War II. “Gun control is one of the worst things that could happen to innocent black people who are living in inner cities around the country because they are under siege, and the criminals have guns**,” Peterson told WND. **“And many innocent black people are being robbed and raped and killed and have no way to defend themselves**. I literally know of cases where single women have been robbed and raped in their driveways. It hurts all citizens, all good citizens, but **gun control is having a devastating effect on blacks in this country.” That’s because black families are more likely to reside in high-crime areas populated by “thugs” who don’t obey gun laws**, Peterson said. “**I’ve been saying for a while now if anyone needs to stand up for the Second Amendment it’s black Americans. Crime is out of control now, so I know of neighborhoods where the thugs and gang members are breaking into homes and the people know who they are but they are afraid of telling the cops because they’re afraid of retaliation,”** he said. “If black Americans were armed in those areas, I think they would have more courage in reporting the criminals to the police.”

#### Stats prove solvency- not banning handguns is key to self-defense.

**Gun Owners of America** Fact Sheet: Guns Save Lives September 29th, 20**08**

Guns used 2.5 million times a year in self-defense. Law-abiding **citizens use guns to defend themselves against criminals as many as 2.5 million times every year** -- or about **6,850 times a day.** [1] This means that each year, firearms are used more than 80 times more often to protect the lives of honest citizens than to take lives. [2] Of the 2.5 million times citizens use their guns to defend themselves every year, the overwhelming majority merely brandish their gun or fire a warning shot to scare off their attackers. **Less than 8% of the time, a citizen will kill or wound his/her attacker.[**3] As many as **200,000 women use a gun every year to defend themselves against sexual abuse.**[4] Even anti-gun Clinton researchers concede that guns are used 1.5 million times annually for self-defense. According to the Clinton Justice Department, there are as many as 1.5 million cases of self-defense every year. The National Institute of Justice published this figure in 1997 as part of "Guns in America" -- a study which was authored by noted anti-gun criminologists Philip Cook and Jens Ludwig.[5] Armed citizens kill more crooks than do the police. Citizens shoot and kill at least twice as many criminals as police do every year (1,527 to 606).[6] And readers of Newsweek learned that "only 2 percent of civilian shootings involved an innocent person mistakenly identified as a criminal. The 'error rate' for the police, however, was 11 percent, more than five times as high."[7] Handguns are the weapon of choice for self-defense. **Citizens use handguns to protect themselves over 1.9 million times a year.** [8] Many of these self-defense handguns could be labeled as "Saturday Night Specials."

### AT King and Non Violence

#### Nonviolence sounds nice, but even MLK wanted a gun.

John **Blake** *Does race shape Americans’ passion for guns?* John Blake is a native of Baltimore, Maryland. He writes about race, religion, politics, and other assorted topics. CNN Enterprise writer/producer October 12, 20**14**

**Even King, the apostle of nonviolence, once armed himself,** says Adam Winkler, author of "Gunfight: The Battle Over the Right to Bear Arms in America." **King applied for a concealed gun permit after his house in Alabama was bombed during his first civil rights campaign. "Witnesses from the time who were allies of Dr. King reported that his home was an arsenal," Winkler says. "One reporter who was trying to interview Dr. King almost sat on a loaded gun when he sat down on the couch."**

### AT States CP

#### Gun control is even harder when it is left up to the states and has historically known to fail.

Fawn **Johnson** *Why Gun Control Can’t Eliminate Gun Violence* Fawn Johnson is a correspondent for *National Journal*, covering domestic policy issues such as gun control, transportation, and education. She is an expert on immigration, having covered it since the Clinton administration. Johnson is a long-time student of Washington D.C. policy and politics, with more than decade of experience covering Congress and the administration. She previously reported for Dow Jones Newswires and the *Wall Street Journal* where she covered financial regulation and telecommunications September 18th, 20**13**

**Stopping gun trafficking is even harder if it has to happen state by state.** **A now-expired Virginia law that only allowed people to buy one gun per month dramatically reduced the number of Virginia-purchased guns recovered at crime scenes. That's because "crime guns" are often purchased illegally by someone who buys them in bulk from a legitimate dealer. But even when Virginia's law was in place** (it expired in 2012), **the number of "crime guns" from other states increased.**

### Policies and regulations FAIL

#### Criminals have other means go getting guns- regulations like background checks fail.

Fawn **Johnson** *Why Gun Control Can’t Eliminate Gun Violence* Fawn Johnson is a correspondent for *National Journal*, covering domestic policy issues such as gun control, transportation, and education. She is an expert on immigration, having covered it since the Clinton administration. Johnson is a long-time student of Washington D.C. policy and politics, with more than decade of experience covering Congress and the administration. She previously reported for Dow Jones Newswires and the *Wall Street Journal* where she covered financial regulation and telecommunications September 18th, 20**13**

Nothing that gun-control advocates are pushing for in Congress would have prevented Monday's shooting rampage at the Washington Navy Yard. And unless this country bans all personal ownership of guns, another mass shooting will occur. This is the greatest hurdle for **the gun-control movement**. They **seek changes** to the law that a majority of the public supports—**expanded background checks, an assault weapons ban, and limits on high-capacity ammunition.** But they are up against formidable opponents in the gun-rights groups. And the only time they get to talk about it is after a splashy, tragic incident that does not represent the bulk of gun deaths—suicides, street crimes, accidents. "You have to base the push around more than the outrage on any one tragedy. It has to be based on our collective desire to make this be the country we all want it to be," said Dan Gross, president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. "In order to create the most meaningful change, we have to look at the gun violence that happens every day." Preventing everyday gun violence is hard, and it's not going to happen overnight. **Curbing gun violence from criminals would require serious attempts to understand how guns get into their hands in the first place. Criminals have only a few ways to get a gun, assuming they can't pass a background check—buying it at a gun show or online,** buying it on the black market, **or stealing it.** Stopping that is like a game of Whack-a-Mole. **For each way that a criminal gets a gun, you need a different rule to stop it. Background checks at gun shows are an obvious way to get rid of one of a criminal's options for getting a gun. But that doesn't stop him or her from buying a gun privately from straw purchasers. There are other ways to prevent that kind of gun trafficking, but those laws inevitably will have loopholes or no one would be able to buy a gun at all.**

#### Background checks cannot even stop those who are incapable to get guns from getting guns.

Fawn **Johnson** *Why Gun Control Can’t Eliminate Gun Violence* Fawn Johnson is a correspondent for *National Journal*, covering domestic policy issues such as gun control, transportation, and education. She is an expert on immigration, having covered it since the Clinton administration. Johnson is a long-time student of Washington D.C. policy and politics, with more than decade of experience covering Congress and the administration. She previously reported for Dow Jones Newswires and the *Wall Street Journal* where she covered financial regulation and telecommunications September 18th, 20**13**

And then there are the mass shootings, which are even harder to prevent. "A deranged crazy person, largely in suicidal range, decides to take out as many people as possible—that's the most difficult of all," said Richard Feldman, president of the Independent Firearm Owners Association. To wit, the Navy Yard shooter Aaron Alexis had a history of violence, some brushes with the law, and a history of negligence with a gun. But the **current background check laws couldn't stop him from buying a gun because he wasn't decreed by a court to be mentally incompetent and he wasn't a convicted felon. He even had a security clearance that gave him access to a military compound, courtesy of an employer that didn't know about his standoffs with the local police or his problems in the Navy Reserve. Background checks have to actually detect problems or they're not going to work. "This was a guy with a history of violent behavior and recklessness with firearms,"** said Ladd Everitt, communications director for the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. **"There is no other civilized society that would allow him legally to own a gun and carry it in public. …We have a regulatory system in this country that is riddled with loopholes and a joke."**

#### Reform policies take way too long and are unsuccessful when they receive attention.

Fawn **Johnson** *Why Gun Control Can’t Eliminate Gun Violence* Fawn Johnson is a correspondent for *National Journal*, covering domestic policy issues such as gun control, transportation, and education. She is an expert on immigration, having covered it since the Clinton administration. Johnson is a long-time student of Washington D.C. policy and politics, with more than decade of experience covering Congress and the administration. She previously reported for Dow Jones Newswires and the *Wall Street Journal* where she covered financial regulation and telecommunications September 18th, 20**13**

Some call them loopholes. Some call them legitimate protections of gun owners' rights. Either way, **the process of creating and using any rules to curb gun violence will take gun rights into account.** **That means compromise, and that means exceptions to the rules that could allow another violent incident to occur. It's inevitable**. Does that mean the gun-control advocates should give up? They certainly show no signs of it, although Gross thinks they should start talking about the issue more holistically. "We need to be having a conversation about guns like we have a conversation about everything else in society that presents risks and rewards -- automobiles, swimming pools," he said. And even though the gun control advocates couldn't muster the support to pass a Senate bill that expanded background checks in April, that only added fuel to their fire. "Sarah Brady, after the Senate vote, turned to me and seeing how upset I was—this was my first big policy fight—she said, 'Sometimes it takes a good defeat,'" Gross said. **Sarah Brady ought to know**. **As the wife of Reagan White House spokesman Jim Brady, who was shot in an assassination attempt 1981, she spent more than a decade trying to get the first handgun background check bill to pass. It took six votes in Congress over seven years.**

#### Gun control laws make it way harder for blacks to get guns- leads to less protection. Reforms only help the white upper class.

John **Blake** *Does race shape Americans’ passion for guns?* John Blake is a native of Baltimore, Maryland. He writes about race, religion, politics, and other assorted topics. CNN Enterprise writer/producer October 12, 20**14**

Some gun rights advocates say contemporary black communities could learn from that tradition of self-defense. **Restrictive gun control laws often victimize black people more than any other group because they suffer disproportionately from violent crime**, says John R. Lott Jr., author of "More Guns, Less Crime: Understanding Crime and Gun Control Laws." **A black person is 6.5 times more likely to become a murder victim than someone who is white; and 92% of black murder victims are killed by members of their own race**, Lott says. **"Given the anger about police in many black communities, it might make more sense to let the law-abiding citizens in those communities have a greater chance to defend themselves,"** says Lott, founder and president of the Crime Prevention Research Center, a group that examines the links between gun control and crime**. There are some who say that gun laws actually discriminate against poor blacks by making it more difficult for them to buy guns for protection,** he says. **He says states do this by raising the costs of concealed gun permits, training and other fees that price out poor minorities**.

#### Criminals will find ways of getting guns illegally- it makes no sense to disarm innocent civilians, especially when the police have no obligation to protect.

Richard**Stevens** *is a lawyer in Washington, D.C., and author of* Dial 911 and Die *(Mazel Freedom Press, 19***99**

Underlying all **“gun control”** ideology is this one belief.” “Private citizens don’t need firearms because the police will protect them from crime.” That belief **is both false and dangerous** for two reasons. First, **the police cannot and do not protect everyone from crime.** Second, **the government and the police in most localities**owe no legal duty to protect individuals from criminal attack. When it comes to deterring crime and defending against criminals, individuals are ultimately responsible for themselves and their loved ones. Depending solely on police emergency response means relying on the telephone as the only defensive tool. Too often, citizens in trouble dial 911 . . . and die. Statistics confirm the obvious truth that the police in America cannot prevent violent crime. In 1997 for example, nationwide there were 18,209 murders, 497,950 robberies, and 96,122 rapes.1 All those crimes were unprevented and undeterred by the police and the criminal justice system. **Many criminals use firearms to commit their crimes.** For example, **in 1997 criminals did so in 68 percent of murders and 40 percent of robberies.2 Thus criminals either have or can obtain firearms. The existing “gun control” laws do not stop serious criminals from getting guns and using them in crimes. Practically speaking, it makes little sense to disarm the innocent victims while the criminals are armed. It is especially silly to disarm the victims when too often the police are simply unable to protect them.** As Richard Mack, former sheriff of Graham County, Arizona, has observed: **“Police do very little to prevent violent crime. We investigate crime after the fact.”**

### Extra Cards

#### Extra

John **Blake** *Does race shape Americans’ passion for guns?* John Blake is a native of Baltimore, Maryland. He writes about race, religion, politics, and other assorted topics. CNN Enterprise writer/producer October 12, 20**14**

What if large groups of African-American men carrying shotguns and semi-automatic rifles started moseying into stores across America to tout their support of open-carry gun laws? Would they be greeted by the same anxious looks shoppers gave groups of armed white men who did the same this summer at Target stores and chain restaurants like Chipotle? Or something more lethal? For Charles Gallagher, a sociologist who studies race, the answer to that "what if" is easy. **"Whites walking down Main Street with an AK-47 are defenders of American values; a black man doing the same thing is Public Enemy No. 1,"** says Gallagher, a professor at La Salle University in Pennsylvania. The debate over guns in America traditionally has been framed as a Second Amendment issue. Gun enthusiasts evoke the right to bear arms, and the need to protect themselves against a tyrannical government. But does race play a role in some Americans' attachment to guns? It depends on who you ask. **You can't talk about guns in America without talking about race,** Gallagher and others say. The panic that would ensue at the sight of armed black men in public, they say, derives from the same racial fears that can be traced to the conquest of Native-Americans and the institution of slavery. The United States has the most armed civilian population on the planet, they say, because some of its white citizens have a history of confronting racial anxieties by "gunning up." Gun rights advocates reject that notion. They say racial paranoia doesn't explain America's gun culture, and that they actually want blacks to have more guns. They say blacks should support groups like the National Rifle Association because law enforcement officers have traditionally not protected them. **"The NRA should stand for the Negro Rifle Association,"** says Robert J. Cottrol, a professor of law and history at George Washington University in Washington. "You would think the way many black politicians are supportive of gun control that African Americans were the most protected people in American history." These gun rights advocates acknowledge that racism shaped some American attitudes toward guns in the past. But they say it's race-baiting to insist it shapes gun culture today. Many non-whites, they point out, are supporters of gun rights but are ignored by the media. "There's very little about anything in America for which race is not part of the story," says David Kopel, research director at the Independence Institute in Colorado, which offers expertise on Second Amendment rights. "That doesn't mean that race is the only part of the story." The links between race and guns, though, may surprise you, some historians and gun scholars say. **One of the first groups to dramatically tout its support of open-carry guns laws was not a predominantly white group like the National Rifle Association. It was the Black Panther Party. Southern blacks were such strong supporters of gun rights that even the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. once kept an "arsenal" in his home**, one gun control historian says. And if you think gun control started with a liberal do-gooder group, you're wrong. America's first gun control group, as well as its first domestic terrorist organization, says Kopel, was the Ku Klux Klan.

John **Blake** *Does race shape Americans’ passion for guns?* John Blake is a native of Baltimore, Maryland. He writes about race, religion, politics, and other assorted topics. CNN Enterprise writer/producer October 12, 20**14**

**After a group of armed Black Panther members invoking their open-carry gun rights barged into the California state Capitol, lawmakers there passed the Mulford Act, banning the open carrying of loaded guns in public in 1967. The federal Gun Control Act of 1968 was passed after race riots rocked the nation.** Kopel says the Black Panthers had a different agenda than their contemporary counterparts. "The Panthers' arms-carrying was often intended to be intimidating," he says. "That's one difference between the Panthers and modern open-carry activists. The latter are attempting to convey the message that they are harmless and peaceful."

#### Obama is in favor of gun control, most blacks aren’t.

Valerie **Richardson** *Black gun rights advocate challenges Obama’s call after church shooting* June 21st, 20**15**

**President Obama and other black leaders called for tighter access to firearms last week in reaction to** the mass shooting at the [Emanuel AME Church](http://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/emanuel-ame-church/) in **Charleston,** South Carolina, but not [Kenn Blanchard](http://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/kenn-blanchard/). **A former Marine, Christian pastor and author of “Black Man with a Gun,”**[**Mr. Blanchard**](http://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/kenn-blanchard/)**wants more black people to protect themselves by embracing the Second Amendment and learning to use firearms, instead of reflexively siding with the gun control movement** “It hit too close to home, being a former pastor of a church, knowing that you’re almost a sitting duck because you open your church up to the herding, you don’t question people, **you don’t have adequate security,” said Mr. Blanchard,** who hosts a podcast through his website, BlackManWithAGun.com.  **“Currently, 54 percent of blacks say gun ownership does more to protect people than endanger personal safety, nearly double the percentage saying this in December 2012 (29 percent),” said the Pew analysis. “By contrast, whites’ views have shown less change: 62 percent now view guns as doing more to protect people, up from 54 percent in December.” Mr. Obama took the opposite tack Friday, saying that if**[**Congress**](http://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/congress/)**had passed “common-sense gun safety reforms after Newtown we might still have some more Americans with us.”** The president was referring to the 2012 massacre at a Connecticut elementary school that left 26 dead.

#### Blackness and guns- pathology.

Ehab **Zahriyeh** *Some African-American say tighter restrictions on guns rob them of their civil rights* Ehab Zahriyeh is a Digital News Producer for Aljazeera America September 1st, 20**13**

Ector says he believes that even today, gun control is doing just that. **"If you live in a community that has a lot of gun control, there’s going to be a lot of crime,**" he says. "People in New York can get guns, but here’s the thing, you can only carry one if local authority like the sheriff or police chief say it’s okay." Ector is referring to rules in **nine states** that **give local law-enforcement officials discretionary authority to deny people gun permits even if they meet all criteria for ownership – the same power Alabama’s police department exercised when Martin Luther King Jr. applied to carry a concealed weapon.**

While the gun-rights group doesn’t keep information on its membership by race, black NRA members say they are in the minority. Rev. Kenn Blanchard, an African-American pro-gun activist and longtime hunter based in Maryland who calls himself "[Black Man with a Gun](http://kennblanchard.com/)" and produces a weekly Urban Shooter podcast—which reached over one million downloads on Aug. 24—estimates that **there were only about 800 blacks among 80,000 people in attendance at the last NRA convention** in Houston in May. Blanchard told Al Jazeera that **African Americans who are outspoken about their pro-gun views can expect to face pushback from family members and friends.** **"It’s the hardest thing in the world to decide I want to be a gun owner in a black community. The church, your synagogue, your temple, the mosque… nobody supports you," he says. "You have to be the lone guy in the community and before you know it you’re one percent."**   Initially, Blanchard expected NRA members to be unwelcoming because of his race. "**I went with my mind and my body prepared for battle,"** he says. But his experience was a positive one and he began encouraging other African Americans to join the organization.

#### Racism roots cards

Clayton E. **Cramer** *The Racist Roots of Gun Control* Clayton E. Cramer is an American historian, author, and software engineer. Copyright 19**93**

It is not surprising that **the first North American English colonies, then the states of the new republic, remained in dread fear of armed blacks,** for slave revolts against slave owners often degenerated into less selective forms of racial warfare. The perception that free blacks were sympathetic to the plight of their enslaved brothers, and **the** dangerous **example that "a Negro could be free"** also **caused the slave states to pass laws designed to disarm all blacks, both slave and free.** Unlike the gun control laws passed after the Civil War, these antebellum statutes were for blacks alone. **In Maryland, these prohibitions went so far as to prohibit free blacks from owning dogs without a license, and authorizing any white to kill an unlicensed dog owned by a free black, for fear that blacks would use dogs as weapons. Mississippi went further, and prohibited any ownership of a dog by a black person.** [[5]](https://www.firearmsandliberty.com/cramer.racism.html" \l "5)

Clayton E. **Cramer** *The Racist Roots of Gun Control* Clayton E. Cramer is an American historian, author, and software engineer. Copyright 19**93**

Understandably, **restrictions on slave possession of arms go back a very long way.** While arms restrictions on *free* blacks predate it, these restrictions increased dramatically after Nat Turner's Rebellion in 1831, a revolt that caused the South to become increasingly irrational in its fears. [[6]](https://www.firearmsandliberty.com/cramer.racism.html#6) **Virginia's response to Turner's Rebellion prohibited free blacks "to keep or carry any firelock of any kind, any military weapon, or any powder or lead..." The existing laws under which free blacks were occasionally licensed to possess or carry arms was also repealed, making arms possession completely illegal for free blacks**.[[7]](https://www.firearmsandliberty.com/cramer.racism.html#7) But even before this action by the Virginia Legislature, in the aftermath of Turner's Rebellion, the discovery that a free black family possessed lead shot for use as scale weights, without powder or weapon in which to fire it, was considered sufficient reason for a frenzied mob to discuss summary execution of the owner. [[8]](https://www.firearmsandliberty.com/cramer.racism.html#8) The analogy to the current hysteria where mere possession of ammunition in some states without a firearms license may lead to jail time, should be obvious.

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**The end of slavery in 1865 did not eliminate the problems of racist gun control laws; the various Black Codes adopted after the Civil War required blacks to obtain a license before carrying or possessing firearms or Bowie knives**; these are sufficiently well-known that any reasonably complete history of the Reconstruction period mentions them. **These restrictive gun laws played a part in the efforts of the Republicans to get the Fourteenth Amendment ratified, because it was difficult for night riders to generate the correct level of terror in a victim who was returning fire**. [[28]](https://www.firearmsandliberty.com/cramer.racism.html#28) It does appear, however, that **the requirement to treat blacks and whites equally before the law led to the adoption of restrictive firearms laws in the South that were equal in the letter of the law, but unequally enforced.** It is clear that the vagrancy statutes adopted at roughly the same time, in 1866, were intended to be used against blacks**, even though the language was race-neutral.** [[29]](https://www.firearmsandliberty.com/cramer.racism.html#29)

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Gun control advocates today are not so foolish as to openly promote racist laws, and so the question might be asked what relevance the racist past of gun control laws has. One concern is that **the motivations for disarming blacks in the past are** really **not so different from the motivations for disarming law-abiding citizens today.** In the last century, **the official rhetoric in support of such laws was that "they" were too violent,** too untrustworthy, **to be allowed weapons.** Today, the same elitist rhetoric regards law-abiding Americans in the same way, as child-like creatures in need of guidance from the government. In the last century, while never openly admitted, **one of the goals of disarming blacks was to make them more willing to accept various forms of economic oppression, including the sharecropping system, in which free blacks were reduced to an economic state not dramatically superior to the conditions of slavery.**

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In much the same way, **gun control has historically been a tool of racism, and associated with racist attitudes about black violence**. Similarly, **many gun control laws impinge on that most fundamental of rights: self-defense.** **Racism is so intimately tied to the history of gun control in America that we should regard gun control aimed at law-abiding people as a "suspect idea," and require that the courts use the same demanding standards when reviewing the constitutionality of a gun control law, that they would use with respect to a law that discriminated based on race.**

#### The government sells a hope of false trust with gun control which corners citizens into either breaking the law or respecting it and dying.

Richard**Stevens** *is a lawyer in Washington, D.C., and author of* Dial 911 and Die *(Mazel Freedom Press, 19***99**

**It’s not just that the police cannot protect you.**They don’t even have to come when you call.**In most states the government and police owe no legal duty to protect individual citizens from criminal attack**. The District of Columbia’s highest court spelled out plainly the “fundamental principle that a government and its agents are under no general duty to provide public services, such as police protection, to any particular individual citizen.”5 These two cases are not legal oddities. **The general rule of law in the United States is that government owes a duty to protect the public in general, but owes no legal duty to protect any particular person from criminal attack.** Neither the U.S. Constitution nor the federal civil rights laws require states to protect citizens from crime. As a federal appeals court bluntly put it, ordinary citizens have “no constitutional right to be protected by the state against being murdered by criminals or madmen.”11 Exceptions to the no-duty rule apply when the police have expressly promised to protect a specific person from an identifiable danger. Informers in a witness protection program, for example, might have an enforceable right to protection. Yet it will make little difference to a dead victim if a court some years later decides that the police did owe a duty but failed to protect him, and then awards damages to next of kin. Picture the situation: government establishes a police force and installs 911 emergency call service. **Then the government announces to the world that “you don’t need a firearm for self-defense,” and so enacts “gun control” laws to make it difficult or impossible legally to get and use a gun. Meanwhile violent criminals remain illegally armed with guns and other weapons.** **Government lulls the public into trusting it to provide everything, takes away the people’s means of providing for themselves, and then claims it has no duty to provide after all. Noting the fatal irony in** the **“gun control”** context, James Bovard has written that “government has a specific, concrete obligation to disarm each citizen, but only an abstract obligation to defend the citizen.” **“Gun control;**” Bovard notes, “is one of the best examples of laws that corner private citizens**—forcing them either to put themselves into danger or to be a lawbreaker.”12** **The drive to prohibit private firearms ownership** highlights the statists’ goals in a way everybody can understand. They aim to **disarm ordinary nonviolent citizens, even those who face high risk of criminal attack, and substitute police protection in place of self-defense. Meanwhile the police will not be held liable to individual citizens for failing to defend them.**

#### ****Openly carrying a gun legally (in an open-carry state) is a public display indicating that an individual does**** **not** ****have a criminal record. This alone undermines the basis behind racial profiling.****

[H. A. **Goodman**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/h-a-goodman/) Three Reasons Why Black Men Should Openly Carry a Gun After Trayvon, Ferguson and John Crawford Columnist and author published in The Hill, The Baltimore Sun, The Jerusalem Post, Salon, and other publications December 1st, 20**14**

**Since there's an**[**FBI background check**](http://www.cnn.com/2013/04/10/politics/background-checks-explainer/)**before the purchase of a gun, walking with a firearm in an open-carry state is essentially a public display that one does not have a criminal record.** Furthermore, since **the vast majority of African-Americans will never have a criminal record, then openly carrying a gun could be a sign, or a public display to everyone that an individual must not be confused with a suspect, or treated like a suspect**. The death of John Crawford, an unarmed black man whose only mistake was picking up a pellet gun from the gun department at Walmart, is a prime example of why Americans should see more black men carrying firearms. The [video](http://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/courts/2014/09/21/grand-jury-convenes-beavercreek-walmart-police-involved-shooting-john-crawford-iii/16030327/) of Crawford's murder is horrific. Yes, there are unarmed white men killed by police, but not at the rate African-Americans experience, and **white skin has never correlated to suspicion in our country. The shooting death of**[**John Crawford**](http://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/courts/2014/09/21/grand-jury-convenes-beavercreek-walmart-police-involved-shooting-john-crawford-iii/16030327/)**inside a Walmart**, especially **when he was holding a Walmart pellet gun sold within the store that he picked up from a shelf,** doesn't only **highlight America's view of race and guns.**[**Surveillance cameras**](http://thinkprogress.org/justice/2014/10/07/3576457/ohio-gun-rights-leader-police-shooting-victim-likely-would-not-have-been-killed-if-he-were-white/) **confirmed that he was not doing anything wrong, yet he died holding a gun, in a place that sells guns. Crawford's death signifies that that the mere sight of a black man with a gun**[**instantly equated**](http://www.cnn.com/2014/09/30/opinion/williams-crawford-walmart-killing/)**to danger.** Race played a factor in Crawford's death, as it does in the death of all unarmed African-Americans who are walking home or crossing a street. A Harvard study on race and skin color titled "[The Skin Color Paradox](http://scholar.harvard.edu/jlhochschild/publications/skin-color-paradox-and-american-racial-order)" states "racial minorities with dark skin in the United States have been disproportionately disadvantaged for centuries."

#### ****The epidemic of disproportionate force utilized against black men in America warrants an alternative, and legal, solution to this problem.****

[H. A. **Goodman**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/h-a-goodman/) Three Reasons Why Black Men Should Openly Carry a Gun After Trayvon, Ferguson and John Crawford Columnist and author published in The Hill, The Baltimore Sun, The Jerusalem Post, Salon, and other publications December 1st, 20**14**

**The deaths of unarmed black citizens continue in America,** **despite the fact that we're in 2014 and not 1814.** While the killers of **Trayvon Martin** and **Michael Brown** have been found "not guilty," cities throughout the country have admitted guilt in other fatal encounters with unarmed African-Americans. Often times, the stories of these tragedies are so horrific that one wonders why such overwhelming force **is**utilized against people who aren'tcarrying weapons. **Eric Garner's** death in July was ruled a [homicide](http://www.latimes.com/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-garner-homicide-20140801-story.html) resulting from a police chokehold. He was unarmed, black, and here's the Time Magazine[video](http://time.com/3016326/eric-garner-video-police-chokehold-death/) of his death. Garner had just broken up a fight and was accused of selling cigarettes. This November, the City of Cleveland reached a [$3 million settlement](http://www.newsnet5.com/news/local-news/investigations/city-of-cleveland-settles-lawsuit-with-nov-2012-chase-victims-for-3-milllion)with the families of **Timothy Russell and Malissa Williams.** Cleveland police officers killed the unarmed black couple after firing [137 bullets](http://www.newsnet5.com/news/local-news/investigations/city-of-cleveland-settles-lawsuit-with-nov-2012-chase-victims-for-3-milllion)at their car. In 2013, The City of Orange County agreed to pay [$4.4 million](http://articles.latimes.com/2013/may/30/local/la-me-ln-oc-to-pay-44-million-settlement-in-deputys-slaying-of-marine-20130530) to the family of **Manuel Loggins Jr.** The former Marine sergeant was unarmed, black, and was shot to death by police in front of his two daughters. After watching their father die, the two young girls were held for [13 hours](http://articles.latimes.com/2012/mar/07/local/la-me-0308-marine-shot-20120308) by police for questioning. In 2011, San Francisco's BART agreed to a settlement of [$2.8 million](http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2011/06/28/bart-reaches-1-3-million-settlement-with-oscar-grant%E2%80%99s-mother/) for the shooting of **Oscar Grant III**, after the unarmed black man was killed by a former officer. In 2010, New York agreed to pay [$7 million](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/28/nyregion/28bell.html?_r=0) to the family of **Sean Bell**, an unarmed black man shot and killed by police. It was Bell's wedding day. In 2011, five New Orleans police officers were [convicted](http://articles.latimes.com/2011/aug/05/nation/la-na-katrina-bridge-shooting-20110806)of killing **Ronald Madison**, an unarmed black man. Madison was also mentally disabled. In 1999, 41 bullets were shot at unarmed **Amadou Diallo** by four officers and New York settled with the West African immigrant's family for[$3 million](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/28/nyregion/28bell.html?_r=0). This September, a former South Carolina state trooper was[fired and now faces charges](http://www.wltx.com/story/news/local/2014/09/24/state-trooper-who-shot-unarmed-man-facing-charges/16173045/)for shooting **Levar Jones** (Jones survived), an unarmed black man. This [August](http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2014/08/3-unarmed-black-african-american-men-killed-police)alone, 4 unarmed black males were killed by police. In Brooklyn this month, [**Akai Gurley**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/11/22/akai-gurley-nypd_n_6205492.html)was shot and killed in the darkened stairwell of a housing project. Gurley was unarmed and his death was ruled a[homicide.](http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/Akai-Gurley-Peter-Liang-NYPD-Pink-Houses-Shooting-Homicide-Ruling-283696031.html) The other day, police shot at an unarmed black man holding his daughter, but thankfully [neither were killed.](http://newpittsburghcourieronline.com/2014/11/29/cop-shoots-at-unarmed-black-man-holding-his-daughter/) **There are so many more instances of unarmed black males shot by police that there simply isn't enough room in this article to continue.** **Therefore,** regardless of your view of gun ownership, **the predicament faced by African-Americans warrants a serious look at whether or not openly carrying a weapon will save black lives.**

**The vast majority of African-American men will never commit a crime, so it's time America realizes this fact. If openly carrying a gun will help our country overcome centuries of prejudice pertaining to skin color, then it's an option that should be pursued.**

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Let's analyze Ferguson and racial profiling, not from the vantage point of those who claim a cigar thief deserved death, but from a novel approach. If the **percentages indicate that**[**one in three**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/04/racial-disparities-criminal-justice_n_4045144.html)**black males will have an interaction with the criminal justice system, and** research shows that [**1 in 15**](https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/race/news/2012/03/13/11351/the-top-10-most-startling-facts-about-people-of-color-and-criminal-justice-in-the-united-states/)**are incarcerated,** **then this also means the vast majority of black males will have zero interaction with prison, crime, or anything to do with America's criminal justice system. These statistics also mean that 75 percent won't have any trouble with the law and that 14 in 15 African-Americans are NOT incarcerated.** Basic math always destroys racism, and although the **statistics** are horribly skewed against African-Americans (which contributes to laws like stop-and-frisk, or shooting of unarmed citizens), they also **show that the majority of black males are peaceful, law abiding, and deserve to walk home without being followed by George Zimmerman.** A big problem in America is that the image of a black male becomes malleable depending on the polarizing media blitz and vapid justifications defending the deaths of unarmed citizens; a figment of our nation's imagination, where a violent behemoth shoplifting little cigars and walking in the middle of the street deserves the guillotine. Likewise, most cops are good people who have enough training and common sense not to turn a traffic stop into a deadly encounter, even if things don't go exactly there way during the interaction. I have the honor of knowing several police officers in Los Angeles and I believe that most officers risk their lives to protect people, not to intimidate or harass anyone. However, when [27.4 percent](http://www.stateofworkingamerica.org/fact-sheets/poverty/) of African-Americans live in poverty, and poverty correlates directly to crime and violence, then too often you get the Darren Wilson's of the world. Finally, there's simply no reason why the vast majority of an ethnic group in this country should have to pay for the sins of a smaller percentage of their community. [Open carry](http://blogs.wsj.com/numbers/map-where-is-open-carry-legal-1715/) is legal in most states**, most black men will never commit a crime,** and all American lives are precious. Therefore, if **carrying a weapon will serve a sign to others that a particular citizen has never been in trouble with the law, that he or she should be addressed with courtesy and respect, and that this citizen could protect himself if his constitutional rights are violated,** then why on Earth don't we look at this option?

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http://thinkprogress.org/health/2013/10/29/2854511/domestic-violence-gun-background-checks/